

#### Dr. Akiva Weiss

Dr. Akiva Weiss wrote and designed *Indigenous Links*. Akiva has also published in the field of Migration, Integration, International Law, and Public Choice. He regularly presents at major venues across the world, and his most recent talks have been: The Evolution of Dignity in European Courts, Advances in Neurolinguistics, Intercultural Communication Between Russia and the United States, Asylum Seekers in the European Union, Historical Approaches to U.S. Government, Music and American Social Movements, Competency-based Assessment, Blended Learning, Gender and Art History, 21st-Century Architecture, and American Cinema. Akiva has graduate degrees from Europe's two oldest universities (Oxford and Bologna) and has visited nearly 150 countries.

# BIOS



# Dr. Álvaro Fernández-Llamazares

Dr. Álvaro Fernández-Llamazares is a conservation scientist working at the University of Helsinki in Finland. He has spent most of his research career working with indigenous peoples in Latin America and Africa. He spent more than a year and half living in the depths of the Amazonian rainforest with no internet, no telephone, and no electricity. The Tsimane' hunter-gatherers hosted him as a member of their community and taught him all the basics of how to subsist in the middle of the jungle, including fishing with bows and arrows!

Much of his current work focuses on the cultural expressions of indigenous peoples, including indigenous storytelling and, particularly, music-making in several indigenous cultures. Being a songwriter himself, he is very interested in how music illustrates the profound connections between people and nature across the world. He has a folk band, called Nòmades (https://nomadesmusic.wordpress.com/), that blends elements from protest songs and tribal rhythms to denounce environmental issues. He aspires to participate one day at the Eurovision Song Contest!



### **Anna Toskina**

Anna Toskina has been an English teacher in Yakutsk for nearly two decades. She is a member of Yakut TESOL, Advance, and a senior expert of the Unified State Exam Commission in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia).



# Anzhelika Khokhlyutina

Anzhelika Khokhlyutina received a degree in foreign languages from Tselinograd Pedagogical Institute, named after S. Seifullin, in 1992 (Astana, Kazakhstan) and is currently teaching English as a foreign language at Multiprofie Liceum in Muravlenko, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Russia. In addition, she works as a teacher trainer and is a member of the Yamelia English Language Teachers' Association.



#### Paolo del Vecchio

Paolo del Vecchio is Director of the Office of Management, Technology, and Operations. In this role, he works in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Department of Health and Human Services to manage and provide leadership, and ensure SAMHSA's needs are met.

Previously, del Vecchio served as the Director of SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), providing executive leadership for federal efforts to improve the United States' mental health service systems. This included management of the federal/state mental health block grant program and directing a range of programs and activities that address topics such as suicide prevention, children's mental health, homelessness, disaster mental health, HIV/AIDS, and others. Del Vecchio also previously served as the CMHS Associate Director for Consumer Affairs, where he directed SAMHSA's precedent-setting programs and activities that advanced consumer participation and education, a recovery orientation for the mental health system, peer support and the adoption of certified peer specialists, wellness and primary care integration, and understanding of trauma histories and the social determinants of health and mental health. In addition, he led programs to reduce discrimination and prejudice associated with mental illnesses.



# Dr. Elena Triapitcyna

Dr. Elena Triapitcyna is head of the department of English Philology, Nordic Languages and Language Pedagogy at the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and International Communication of Northern (Arctic) Federal University, named after M.V. Lomonosov. She lives in Arkhangelsk, Russia.

She is interested in helping teachers and students to think critically about language and teacher education. She earned her first Specialist degree in teaching foreign languages (English and German) in 1993 and started her professional career as an English teacher. In 2000, she got a PhD (Candidate) degree in General Linguistics.



### Eugenia Yadrikhinskaya

Eugenia Yadrikhinskaya is a senior lecturer in North-Eastern Federal University (Russia). As a faculty member, she teaches English as a Foreign Language (EFL) and English for Specific Purposes (ESP). She is a participant of the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program (International Visitor Leadership Program). Eugenia is a Yakut TESOL Editor. Since 2015, she has been coordinating the English Access Microscholarship Program and Advance Through Vocational English Scholarship Program in Yakutsk (Russia). Currently, she is working on her dissertation thesis "Development of Global Competence in EFL Classes."



#### Jonah McCavour

Jonah McCavour was born in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada, and currently resides in Coral Harbour, Nunavut, Canada. Jonah completed his B.A. degree at St. Thomas University, his graduate diploma in TESOL at the University of Wisconsin, his B.Ed at the University of New Brunswick, and his M.Ed at the University of San Francisco. Jonah has traveled extensively and has worked as an ESL instructor in South Korea and Saudi Arabia before returning to Canada, where he currently teaches English language arts to high school students for the Kivalliq school district. He also works for the British Council as an IELTS examiner and is a member of many committees and organizations focused on literacy. He is passionate about language preservation and indigenous rights.



#### Joshua Schiefelbein

Joshua Schiefelbein is the founder of ArcInset OU, a publishing company that helps writers share their work with the world. He has also written, edited, and translated for VKontakte, Wargaming, European University, ITMO University, Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Public Policy, and several newspaper publications. A veteran of teaching leadership, management, and English as a Second Language (ESL) for nearly a decade, he has worked in developing ESL curricula in history, literature, design, academic writing, ESP, and more. He has a Bachelor's degree in Russian Area Studies from Dartmouth College and a Master's in Educational Technology from the University of Tartu, and his life goal is to visit every country in the world one Starbucks coffee at a time so that he can expand his personal collection of national flags.



#### Dr. Karen Ottewell

Dr. Karen Ottewell works at the University of Cambridge, where her main role is to support international postgraduates develop their writing skills in their specific academic discipline. She previously lectured in English Language and Culture at the universities of Bonn and Erlangen-Nuremberg in Germany. She recently became a proctor at Cambridge — basically an office that dates back to the thirteenth century — and, as a result, has started a new hobby in finding interesting cuff links to embellish the black and white of the proctorial dress code.



### Dr. Ludmila Gorodetskaya

Dr. Ludmila Gorodetskaya is a Doctor in Cultural Studies and Professor of Lomonosov Moscow State University. As a Fulbright alumna, she is taking an active part in Fulbright Program events in Moscow, particularly interviews with new candidates. She also works as a Senior ELT Consultant for Cambridge University Press, travelling with workshops and visiting schools and universities in Moscow and other cities. Dr. Gorodetskaya often speaks at academic conferences in Russia and abroad, and she has participated in several TESOL and IATEFL conventions. Her fields of interest are intercultural communication and methodology of language teaching and testing.



#### **Luis Perea**

Luis Perea was recently an English Language Fellow located in Mykolaiv, Ukraine. He taught language assessment, bilingual education, and English for communication courses to graduate and undergraduate students at V.O. Shukhomlinsky National University. He holds a Master's degree in Education (English/Spanish) and a Master's in Applied Linguistics/TESOL. Luis has taught elementary, middle school, high school, university, and adult students, and has trained teachers in the United States, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Ukraine, Moldova, and Lithuania. He also has over 12 years of experience in creating standardized language assessments for the Oregon Department of Education, Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, Harcourt Assessment, Pearson Assessment, Rosetta Stone, Edutech Lab, and Educational Testing Service. Luis has delivered presentations in the United States, Mexico, Ukraine, Moldova, Lithuania, Turkey, Belgium, England, Hungary, and Germany.



#### Marianna Mikhailova

Marianna Mikhailova has been teaching English in Yakutia for 25 years. She is from Zyryanka at the Verkhnekolymsky district of Yakutia.



# Marika Sołtys

Marika Sołtys designed the cover and assisted with the layout. She is a native New Yorker who has taught English and Russian in Montreal and Saint Petersburg. Her interests include Slavic cultures, adult education, visual art, music, and beagles.



# Marina Yurievna Protopopova

Marina Yurievna Protopopova is a Senior Lecturer, in both English and Korean, at North-Eastern Federal University, Yakutsk.



# **Mary Catherine Boehmer**

Mary Catherine Boehmer currently directs the ESL Department at Boston Preparatory Charter School. Prior to this, she served as an English Language Fellow in Baku, Azerbaijan, a fellowship through the Office of English Language Programs at the U.S. Department of State. As a Fellow, she led a large-scale implementation of facilitated MOOC groups throughout Azerbaijan, partnering with a variety of public- and private-sector organizations to democratize education through technology. She holds an M.A. in TESOL from Teachers College at Columbia University and a B.A. in Linguistics with minors in Russian and Spanish from the University of Mississippi. She has primarily taught ESL/EFL in higher education in the United States and Germany, as well as in Russia as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant. Her areas of interest are content-based instruction, ESP, competency-based learning, and culturally responsive pedagogy, particularly in adapting educational technology to be more culturally relevant to the target culture. In addition to English, she has taught elementary Russian and elementary Spanish. She speaks varying degrees of Russian, Spanish, German, and Azerbaijani.



# Nasiba Sharipova

Nasiba Sharipova was born in Tajikistan. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Nosiri Khusrav University and obtained a certificate in English. She has taught ESL for nine years and participated in teaching conferences in Tajikistan, Ukraine, Moldova, and Turkey. Her hobbies include reading about and visiting historical places in order to get a taste of the past.



# **Natalya Odintsova**

Natalya Odintsova is an English teacher in the village of Olyokminsk. Her students contributed to *Indigenous Links* through providing stories and artwork depicting Sakha culture.



# Shadrina Agatha Nickolajevna

Shadrina Agatha Nickolajevna has been working as an English teacher in the village of Zhigansk for over 30 years. She graduated from the faculty of Foreign Languages at Irkutsk State Pedagogical Institute and is the winner of several prestigious awards, including the Sakha Republic's "Teacher of the Teachers" and the Russian presidential contest "The Best Teachers of Russia."



# Dr. M. Sidury Christiansen

Dr. M. Sidury Christiansen is an Assistant Professor of TESOL/Applied Linguistics at the University of Texas at San Antonio and a former Fulbright Scholar. She specializes in the research and teaching of sociolinguistics and digital literacies among bilinguals and English language learners. Her research explores the intersection between digital literacy and language ideologies, identities, and culture. Dr. Christiansen has taught numerous online and hybrid courses, and she promotes technology for the enhancement of teaching and learning, especially of second language writing.



#### Svetlana Dorofeeva

Svetlana Dorofeeva teaches English to Access Microscholarship learners in Saint Petersburg. She also teaches Russian as a foreign language at ITMO University. Svetlana received her B.A. in Philology and an M.A. in English Language Pedagogy with a focus on Theatre Technologies from Herzen State Pedagogical University. She was a Fulbright Scholar at Lehigh University (2015) and guided the winning team of the Russian-American history contest at Fort-Ross (2018). Svetlana enjoys chess, ultimate Frisbee, writing poetry, running, and creating art.



# Dr. Tamara Oshchepkova

Dr. Tamara Oshchepkova has 20 years of teaching experience. She graduated from Omsk State Pedagogical University (Russia) and got her PhD from Omsk State Technical University (Russia). She worked as the head of the Department of English at the Faculty of Informatics. In 2007, she was granted the academic rank of an Associate Professor. She was the head of the non-governmental organization Omsk English Language Teachers Association. She is the co-author of the textbook *English for Academics*, published by Cambridge University Press. Currently, she is employed as an Assistant Professor teaching English at the American University of the Middle East (Kuwait).



# Valentina Anatoljevna Sleptsova

Valentina Anatoljevna Sleptsova is an English teacher at secondary school No. 7, Yakutsk. She has been teaching English for 15 years and loves creating algorithms for making grammar fun.



### Victoria Tauli-Corpuz

Victoria Tauli-Corpuz was appointed as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples by the Human Rights Council in 2014.

In the fulfilment of her mandate, she conducts fact-finding missions and reports on the human rights situation in specific countries, addresses cases of alleged violations of the rights of indigenous peoples through communications with governments and others, promotes good practices to implement international standards concerning the rights of indigenous peoples, and conducts thematic studies on topics of special importance to the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples.

She is an indigenous leader from the Kankana-ey Igorot people of the Cordillera Region in the Philippines. As an indigenous activist, she has worked for over three decades on building movement among indigenous peoples and as an advocate for women's rights.

Ms. Tauli-Corpuz is the former Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2005–2010) and has served as the chairperson-rapporteur of the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations. As an indigenous leader, she was actively engaged in the drafting and adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007. She has founded and managed various NGOs involved in social awareness raising, climate change, and the advancement of indigenous peoples' and women's rights, and she is a member of the United Nations Development Programme Civil Society Organizations Advisory Committee.

In her capacity as the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Ms. Tauli-Corpuz has provided expert testimony before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and policy advice to *inter alia* the World Bank and the World Intellectual Property Organisation. Ms. Tauli-Corpuz updates her activities at unsr.vtaulicorpuz.org, and her office may be contacted for questions concerning the rights of indigenous peoples.



# Zarmena Emelyanova

Zarmena Emelyanova is an Associate Professor at North-Eastern Federal University. She has been teaching English for more than 20 years. Zarmena's academic interests include ESP, assessment, and bilingual education.

#### **PHOTO CREDITS**

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